

# Scion

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Scion is a modern genealogy program designed to help those who wish to trace and record their family trees, and like any other genealogy program is in effect a highly specialised database.

Unlike some utilities of this kind, however, Scion makes no concession to secular or social conventions, and so does not revolve entirely around the nuclear family.

Weddings, when recorded, do not have to be between man and woman, and children do not have to hold the same surname as their parents, thus allowing for divorce, adopted children, second families, and gay spouses.

When loaded, the program displays a window split into three main areas. The main window holds personal details of the person currently being viewed, below which there are a number of gadgets for searching through the list people in the current database. To the right a set of tools are on offer with which relationships can be defined to set up family groups.

If you have ever used a genealogy program or carried out research into your family history, you will know that the most time consuming job is the collection of birth, death, and marriage certificates and the collation of the disparate data into some sort of pattern.

The web of marriages and children soon spreads until a simple look back at great-grandfather's descendants can cover the living room floor with a blizzard of yellowing documents.

With Scion the process is made more simple in that the user just types in the names of

Scion's main screen is where all personal details are entered

Tracing a person's ancestors using Scion's family tree display

everyone involved then uses the family group tools to tell the program who married who, when, and where, who was who's child, and so on until the available data has all been entered.

A simple selection on the information gadgets at the bottom of the screen will then enable one to trace fathers, mothers, ancestors and descendants for any chosen person, and a variety of different reports can be committed to paper via the print menu.

An example file, imaginatively entitled "Example", can be found in the same directory as Scion and should now be loaded to demonstrate the capabilities of the program.

The database holds the details of 108 people grouped into 34 family groups ranging across several generations and is a good illustration of how Scion works.

Starting with Albert Smith, born in 1947, we can trace the Smith family backwards and forwards to the oldest known relatives and the most recent children. Click first on the Anc (ancestors) button and a screen showing Albert and his parents on the left will pop up.

The previous two generations are displayed to the right, so click on Albert's great-grandfather, Charles Smith. We are returned to the Personal detail screen where we can see that Charles was born in 1848 and worked as a bookseller.

To trace Charles's descendants, click on the Desc (descendants) button and a tree will be shown in which male relatives are displayed in blue and female in red.

We can go down the generations by clicking on names further to the right, but notice for now that spouses are marked by an S and that children, the next generation, are indented one level to give us a clear picture of how the family has progressed through the years.

Using Scion, aided by the detailed manual on the CoverDisk, any reader should find that organising the family history is a much easier job and that charts of one's family make-up can be generated and printed in minutes.

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